

April 17, 2014

# Weekly Views

Six PEN Products staff and Deputy Commissioner James Basinger attended the National Correctional Industries Association (NCIA) National Training Conference in New Orleans, LA. Mike Herron, Becky Deeb, Doug Evans and Christi Griffin were presenters in workshops at the annual training conference. In 2015, IDOC and PEN will host the NCIA national training conference in Indiana.

Staff Development and Training (SD&T) and Wabash Correctional Facility (WVCF) staff presented the Peer Mentor Training to nine offenders at the facility. This program was co-presented with IDOC Staff and Peer Mentors

identified by the facility. A special thank you goes to Lieutenant Stephen King, Amy Eickmeier and Dr. Julie Hoepfner for presenting the course with SD&T staff (photo right)

National Geographic Magazine Associate Editor Jeremy Berlin visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility to observe the facility's Shakespeare Program in conjunction with a 12-part online series that is being developed titled "The Innovators Project". One of the segments will focus on the work of Indiana State University Professor Dr. Laura Bates who introduced the Shakespeare Program in the IDOC at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility several years ago.

Four Custody Shift Brackets at the Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) competed in the IWP Bracket Buster Competition (BBC) from February 1 through March 31 in the interest of wellness and good spirited competition. Each bracket shared one pedometer attempting to log as many steps as possible. Congratulations go to Captain Maxi, whose bracket totaled 571,590 steps to finish in first place in the IWP BBC. Individuals were also recognized at the facility as leading "steppers" from each bracket.



Proceeds from a cookout for staff at Putnamville Correctional Facility will benefit the Correctional Professionals Assistance Fund of Indiana (CPAFI). The menu included grilled cheeseburgers and hot, fresh fries prepared by veteran staff members. The CPAFI aids in our fellow staff receiving funds in times of need and the staff at ISF are always happy to assist! (pictured left Physical Plant Foreman Greg Nichols and retired Training Officer Mike Shouse)

The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a family day for its PLUS and CLIFF units. Activities for the event included an open house for the Vantage Pointe Learning Center, the facilities school, Open Treatment teams, family reunification activities, games and prizes and a tour of the students units. There were a total of 33 parents that attended the events.



Miami Correctional Facility offender band and choir put on a couple spring concerts for staff and offenders. They played a variety of music from Rock and Roll to Christian and Country, and even a Beatles tune. The band and choir practice year-round and usually hold concerts in the spring and winter. (photo right)



The Guiding Responsible Action Creates Empowerment (GRACE) Unit at the Indiana Women's Prison is receiving special self-help programming from Chaplain Andrea Lewis. Chaplain Lewis is offering a volunteer bible study session with the offenders participating in phase two of the program. The GRACE Unit includes three phases, and a variety of classes are offered for all phases by the unit team and program staff.

The Employee Appreciation Committee at the Indiana State Prison held a bake sale with the proceeds going to the Michigan City Police Department's annual "Easter Egg Hunt" to help fill 30,000 plastic Easter eggs with candy.

The 2014 Indiana Special Olympics (SO) Summer Games are just around the corner and Wabash Valley staff are talking Bocce Ball! Last year the maintenance team made 12 new Bocce Courts with many staff volunteering to help out during the competition at the Summer Games in Terre Haute. Special Olympic representatives are hoping even more will take part in the fun and excitement during the 2014 games. WVCF has also invited folks from the Putnamville and Rockville Correctional Facilities to volunteer for Bocce. Superintendent Richard Brown is also looking for company for this year's Torch Run. "It is an experience you will never forget as you watch these courageous men and woman do their very best to excel while at the same time cheering each other on. They are inspiring to watch and they are all winners!" See you in June at the Summer Games!

The Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) conducted a "Reality Check" Program for at-risk youth from the Muncie area. The program was established at PCF in August of 2008 and provides the opportunity for participants to hear offenders communicate the factors and circumstances that led to their incarceration with the goal of deterring young people from a life of crime.

Miami Correctional Facility hosted 19 students and their teacher from Lafayette Jefferson High School Thursday for a Straight Talk program. The students are a part of a Social Studies Class. Students were brought into the facility's Visitation Room and had to go through pat down.